THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. It is laid down in the National Water Policy, 2002 that private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible. Conservation consciousness should be promoted through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting" for implementation with active involvement of the beneficiaries including Local Bodies/Panchayats/Water User Association/Communities/Non Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organisations has been conceived.

Permanent solution to flood and erosion problems

1301. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Task Force constituted to study the possible ways and means for the permanent solution of the flood and erosion problem in Assam is already in action;

(b) if so, the guidelines for the Task Force; and

(c) the up-to-date progress of its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Terms of Reference for the Task Force *inter alia* include study of flood/erosion problem, suggesting short term and long term measures for the management of floods and erosion control, examine international dimensions, suggest institutional arrangements for tackling the problem and source of funding for future action plan.

(c) The first meeting of the Task Force was held on 31.8.2004 wherein it was decided to set up three Sub-Goups, namely, sub-group-l for Assam and neighbouring States, Sub-Group-ll for West Bengal and Sub-Group-Ill for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The first meeting/field visit of Sub-Group-I (for Assam and neighbouring States) was held at Guwahati during September 23-25, 2004. The 2nd meeting of the Sub-Group was held at Guwahati on November 16-17,2004. The Sub-Group submitted its report to the Task Force in its meeting held on 02-03 December, 2004. The Task Force considered the report of the Sub-Group-I along with reports of other Sub-Group II & III and other agenda. The Task Force has been asked to submit its report by 31st December, 2004.

Pending irrigation projects from Assam

†1302. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irrigation projects from Assam are pending with the Central Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to clear these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Three projects of Assam namely Champamati Irrigation Project, Dhansiri Irrigation Project and Integrated Irrigation Schemes for Kallong River Basin were approved by the Central Government in 1980,1975 and 1980 respectively. The State Government has submitted revised cost estimate of these projects to Central Water Commission for appraisal. The approval of Central Government depends upon the promptness with which the State Government complies with observations of the Central Appraising Agencies.

Pench Brihad Pariyojna for Chhindwara

†1303. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding Pench Brihad Pariyojna (mega project) in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh has been pending with Central Water Commission for the last few years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the said project is likely to be cleared?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.